

Claims:

- 1.* A method of sterile packaging a chemical liquid for aerosol dispensing, comprising the steps of:  
    providing a rigid metallic container including an aerosol dispenser;  
    charging the metallic container with pressurized gas and a chemical liquid;  
    enclosing the metallic container in at least one hermetically sealed plastic layer, the plastic layer being less rigid than the metallic container; and  
    sterilizing the chemical liquid, the gas, the metallic container, and the plastic layer with radiation;  
    whereby any leakage of the pressurized gas from the metallic container will create a positive increase of pressure inside the plastic layer, maintaining an exterior of the container sterile.
- 2.* A method of sterilizing a disinfecting liquid contained in an aerosol container comprising the steps of:  
    providing an aerosol container having an internal volume;  
    charging the internal volume of the aerosol container with a quantity of disinfecting liquid;  
    pressurizing the internal volume of the aerosol container with an inert gas and sealing the aerosol container;  
    sealing the aerosol container within a plurality of successively nested hermetic sealing layers to form a hermetically sealed container enclosure; and  
    externally irradiating said hermetically sealed container enclosure and said aerosol container therewithin at a predetermined radiation level for a predetermined time internal to simultaneously sterilize said disinfecting liquid, said aerosol container, and said plurality of successively nested hermetic sealing layers.